



# PRESS RELEASE

## U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

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### Army Announces Public Information Sessions to be held for Delaware and New Jersey Residents on Caustic Wastewater

**Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.** – The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency announced today that it will provide public information sessions in both New Jersey and Delaware regarding its consideration of DuPont's Secure Environmental Treatment Unit in Deepwater, New Jersey to treat caustic wastewater--the material left over after nerve agent VX is destroyed. The caustic wastewater has characteristics similar to household drain cleaner.

"We recognize the importance of providing the public a full opportunity to learn about and comment on the plan," said Col. Jesse Barber, project manager for U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project. "As part of that community engagement, I am pleased that we will provide a public information session in New Jersey and another public information session in Delaware. These meetings will provide citizens an opportunity to pose questions and obtain additional information regarding the treatment method under consideration, as well as the proposed transportation plan."

"We will announce dates and times for the meetings once we have available as much information as possible, to include final results from all the studies DuPont is currently working to complete," Barber added. "We are awaiting the completion of DuPont's analysis of their transportation assessment, ability to treat the wastewater, and the environmental effects of the discharge of the treated water to the Delaware River."

These documents, which will be available for public review at least 14 days before the public information sessions, will provide the public a broader perspective of the potential project. Additionally, the comment period will be extended for 30 days after the public information meetings to allow citizens an opportunity to provide additional input on the proposal.

The documents include a transportation risk assessment; a study of the discharged effluent, and an assessment to ensure DuPont will be able to handle the waste material safely and in an environmentally sound manner. In addition, a treatability study on the caustic wastewater, or hydrolysate, also will be conducted. These tests will evaluate the effectiveness of the DuPont wastewater treatment process to treat the caustic wastewater safely and effectively. The studies will be reviewed by independent resources to provide an objective peer review of the reports and final results.

"The studies will be available for public review at least two weeks in advance of the public information sessions," Barber said. "Also at that time when the studies are available, we will share the dates, times and locations of the public information sessions in both New Jersey and Delaware. To ensure there is plenty of time for further public review following these meetings, we will extend the public comment period an additional month following the meeting."

The Army will conduct two information sessions on consecutive days. DuPont will also participate in the sessions.

"We want to ensure as much information as possible on all aspects of this project is available in advance to the community in and around the New Jersey facility to ensure a robust public information session process," Barber stated. Among the information that will be provided are topics including the destruction process for the chemical agent in Newport (Indiana), the DuPont-patented treatment method for the resulting caustic wastewater and the transportation assessment. "With these sessions, we want community members to have the opportunity to ask and get answers to their questions."

*The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States' aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and for the safe elimination of recovered chemical materiel.*

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